

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I think particularly for this purpose the testimony and the advice and suggestion of the League of Women Voters will be valuable to us because I know of the method they use in arriving at their conclusions, having been a county official at one time and having been subjected to their scrutiny in forming positions for their members and for informing their members. I know they do a very thorough job.

I know that during the 2-year period of time they have been studying the poverty program they have done a very thorough job. For that reason I think this committee, this Congress, and this Nation would place a lot of credence in your testimony.

Mr. HAWKINS (presiding). It is a pleasure to welcome you to the committee.

You may proceed to present your testimony in any way you care to do so.

Mrs. BENSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Meeds.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. BRUCE B. BENSON, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT,
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mrs. BENSON. I am Mrs. Bruce B. Benson, second vice president of the League of Women Voters of the United States and chairman of the league's national work on human resources.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present the position of the members of the League of Women Voters—in 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the poverty program and on the proposed Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967.

Since 1964, when league members first began to study the problems of poverty and equality of opportunity in education and employment, they have explored with great interest the Economic Opportunity Act and the programs developed and funded under it in their local communities across the United States.

After a 2-year study, league members in 1966 agreed on a position of strong support for a whole range of programs, many of which have been developed under the Economic Opportunity Act.

The members of the League of Women Voters of the United States believe that the Federal Government must continue to assume a large share of responsibility for providing equality of opportunity in education and employment for all persons in the United States.

Local and State governments have important responsibilities in this area. However, we believe the Federal Government must provide leadership and increased funds if we as a country really mean to carry out our commitment to overcome poverty by making it possible for all persons to have an effective opportunity to get an education and to find employment.

Since employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are tightly related to education, we therefore support Federal programs to greatly increase the education and training of disadvantaged people—of all races and ethnic groups.

The league supports a number of different kinds of programs to provide greater educational and employment opportunities. For instance, we support programs to provide basic education, occupational